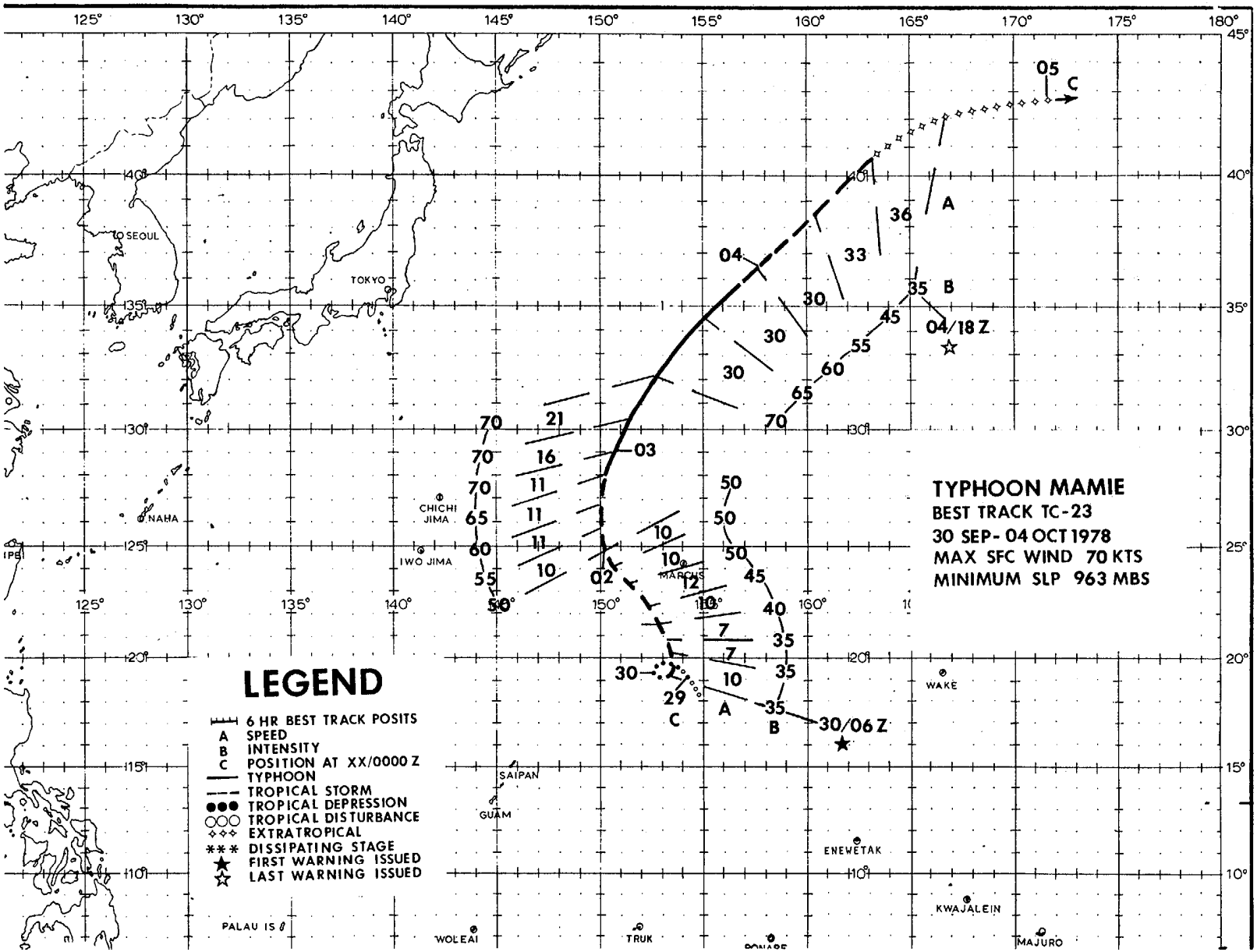
TYPHOON MAMIE
BEST TRACK TC-23
30 SEP- 04 OCT 1978
MAX SFC WIND 70 KTS
MINIMUM SLP 963 MBS
LEGEND
6 HR BEST TRACK POSITS
A SPEED
B INTENSITY
C POSITION AT XX/0000 Z
TYPHOON
TROPICAL STORM
TROPICAL DEPRESSION
TROPICAL DISTURBANCE
EXTRATROPICAL
DISSIPATING STAGE
FIRST WARNING ISSUED
LAST WARNING ISSUED
04/18 Z
30/06 Z
SEOUL
TOKYO
NAHA
CHICHI JIMA
IWO JIMA
MARCUS
WAKE
SAIPAN
GUAM
ENEWETAK
KWAJALEIN
MAJURO
WOLEAI
TRUK
PALAU IS

Typhoon Mamie was yet another of the compact typhoons of 1978. Mamie was also an open ocean typhoon (i.e., it formed and dissipated over the ocean, and affected shipping lanes) and never really threatened any land stations.

Tropical Depression 23 (Mamie) developed from a wave in the easterlies. On the 27th of September at 0000Z this wave was approximately 100 nm (185 km) east of Guam and was oriented southwest-northeast from 10N to 25N. Within the wave, there were two disturbance areas. The northernmost area eventually developed when it moved under an upper air difluent region. By the 30th, a compact tropical depression was easily noted on satellite data (Fig. 3-21). Also noted were cirrus cloud streamers showing outflow existed in all quadrants. The first warning on TD-23 was issued immediately thereafter.

Remaining a very compact system (Fig. 3-22), Mamie tracked on a recurvature path along the western periphery of a mid-tropospheric, subtropical high pressure system whose 500 mb height center was near 25N-175E. The direction-of-track forecasts were good; however, the speed-of-movement forecasts were underestimated. Mamie accelerated much more rapidly than expected (twice climatological speeds) after passing north of 30N. Due to sparse, upper-air reports in the vicinity of the typhoon, analysis and forecast aids did not indicate such a rapid acceleration would occur. Mamie eventually weakened and transitioned into an extratropical system on 4 October 1978. Without satellite reconnaissance it is conceivable that the compact, Typhoon Mamie would not have made history.

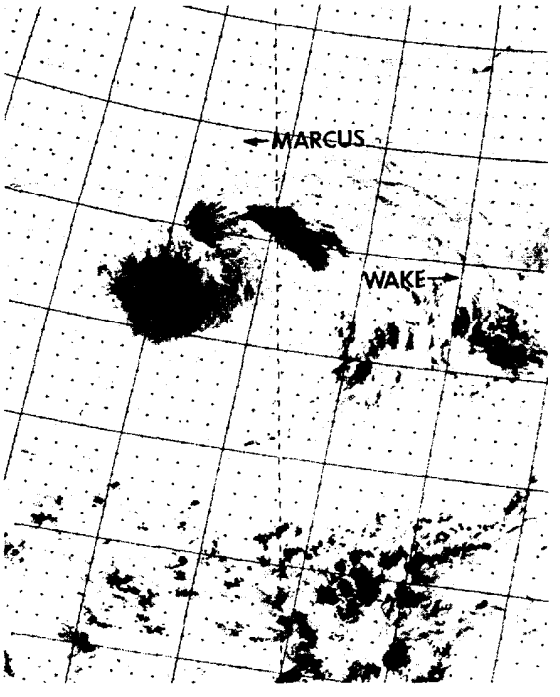

FIGURE 3-21. Infrared imagery of TD-23 (Mamie) at 30 kt (15 m/sec) intensity, 30 September 1978, 0035Z. (DMSP imagery)

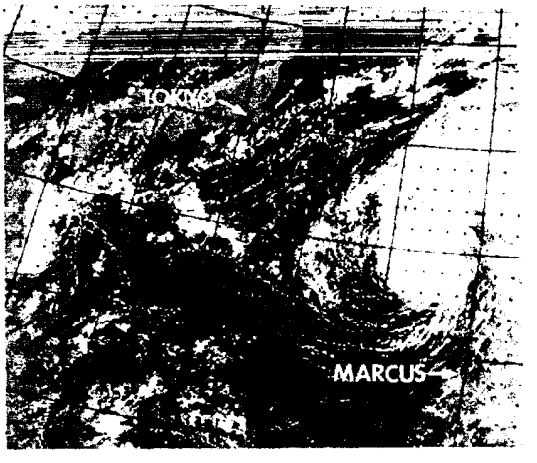

FIGURE 3-22. Typhoon Mamie, remaining compact, moving northeastward while at maximum intensity of 70 kt (36 m/sec), 03 October 1978, 0123Z. (DMSP imagery)